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WHATCOM HEALTH CENTER
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CHARLES R. BENJAMIN
Director

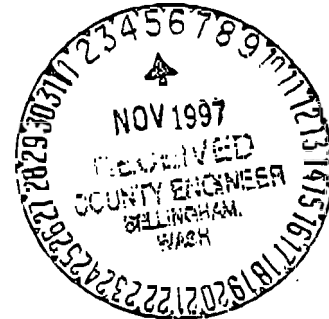
WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FRANK E. JAMES, M.D.
Health Officer

Memorandum

Date 11/04/97
To: Tom Hayden, Engineering Tech II
Engineering Division
From: Michele Osborn, Environmental Health Specialist
Subject: Dredge Material from Swift Creek
cc: David Blake, NWAPA



You have requested Health Department approval to use the Swift Creek dredge sediments as fill material. The issue of concern is naturally occurring asbestos that is present in the sediments.

This specific issue was discussed with Mr. David Blake, who is the asbestos specialist for the Northwest Air Pollution Authority (NWAPA). Mr. Blake was intimately involved with the Swift Creek/Sumas Mountain sediments characterization that occurred back in 1995. In the study, it was concluded that asbestos is present in the sediment at trace levels.

Both the Health Department and NWAPA agree that the dredge material removed from Swift Creek should be used as fill material. The levels of asbestos in the sediments were less than 1% by weight threshold, which is the established limit where a material becomes regulated hazardous material.

The dredge material can be transported without placarding and/or warning signs and does not require a cover while in transport.

Environmental Health	STD/AIDS Travel Clinic	Communicable Disease Immunizations	Maternal/Infant	Child Health Clinic	WIC Clinic	Communicable Disease Reporting Line
676-6734 384-1565	676-4593 384-5848	738-2508 384-1336	647-2129 380-4017	738-2522 384-0574	738-2505 384-1633	738-2501